

Implementation of Public-Private Partnerships for Transit



Surface Transportation Reauthorization: The Transit Industry Perspective

Michael Schneider

Managing Partner InfraConsult LLC

Co-Chair, PPP Task Force American Public Transportation Association



What's the Situation?

- National debate on funding, priorities, and appropriate roles of the federal, state, and local governments... and the private sector
- National fiscal crisis affecting projected revenues, access to credit, interest rates
- Not since 1956 and 1964 has there been a discussion of such fundamental nature in the way we finance the business of moving people and goods in America







Unprecedented Opportunities and Risks



Opportunities

- High transit ridership
- Public, media & political interest
 - Economic stimulus



Risks

- Systems at capacity
- Local financial strain







Potential Game Changers

- Federal funding: Approach and magnitude
- Economic recovery and workforce development
- Energy independence: Attention to climate change
- Sustainability: "Green Tea?"



Partnerships in Public Transportation

Partnerships are about...

- Development and delivery of new capital projects
- Rehabilitation and extensions to existing transit systems
- Delivery of service to the traveling public
- Operations and maintenance

...improved delivery of projects and services







Let's Be Clear...

Our principal objective is to implement and operate transportation programs that improve public mobility, in an efficient and effective manner...



...it is *NOT* to create public-private partnerships.

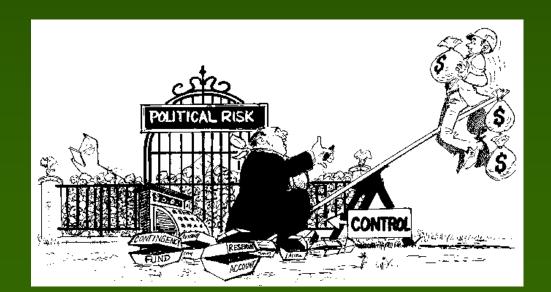






PPPs Are About Project Delivery

"...a partnership between governmental agencies and private entities for the primary purpose of effectively developing, operating and/or maintaining public infrastructure traditionally in the domain of the governmental sector..."







Perspectives and Expectations

- <u>Overall Objective</u>: To increase funding and financing opportunities and/or to better facilitate project delivery and provision of service
- <u>Private Sector Expectations</u>: To provide financial/investment opportunities at acceptable rates of return; to provide increased opportunities for provision of services at a reasonable profit
- <u>Public Sector Expectations</u>: To achieve a combination of lowered cost; improved service quality; new technology; increased technical and managerial expertise; greater depth of available resources; and appropriate risk allocation...







Private Investment Risk...



THEY EARN THE HIGHEST
POSSIBLE INTEREST.
THE ONLY TRADE-OFF
IS THAT YOU CAN
NEVER WITHDRAW
IT.



WHY DON'T
I JUST FLING HEARD OF
MY MONEY
OUT A WINDOW? DEBENTURE"
PRODUCT?

Some Believe That...

- When there are no federal grants
- When there is no state money
- And when no local sources of funds are available...
- ...then (and only then) is a project a candidate for private sector involvement

LEVERAGING PUBLIC ASSETS
IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS







Potential Negative Impacts of Public-Private Partnerships

- Comprehensive planning may take a back seat to expedient project development
- Projects that are inherently capable of generating a revenue stream may take precedence over those that are "non profit"
- Government may abdicate its role to provide equality of access and social justice
- Smaller firms may be left out of the game
- Environmental stewardship may be overlooked in favor of project expediency
- There has been a tendency for government to assume that the private sector will happily lose money in order to be awarded a concession







What Have We Really Learned?

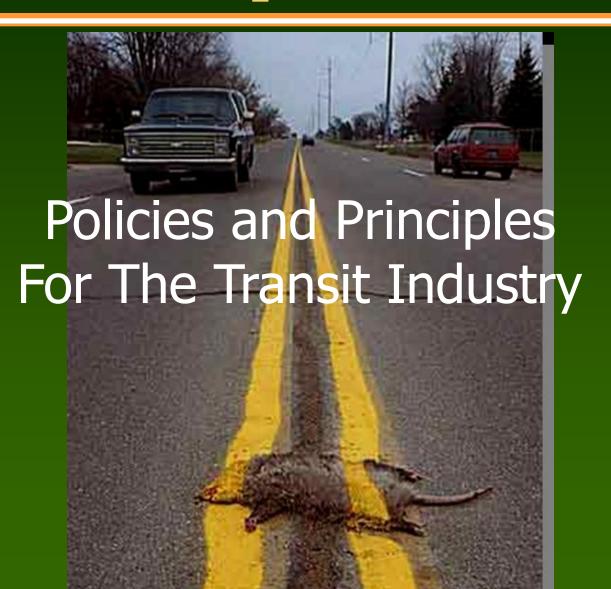
Without significant public resources dedicated to public transportation, there cannot be public-private partnerships in transit development and operation







APTA Public-Private Partnerships Task Force







APTA: Cross-Cutting Issues

- Framework for the Future:
 Four new cross-cutting initiatives
 - Sustainability
 - Enhanced mobility
 - Intermodal focus
 - Public-Private Partnerships







Policy Premises

- Public transportation should be viewed as a key component of the "modal mix"
- Transit should be included in enabling legislation for PPPs
- PPP focus should not diminish the crucial governmental role in providing financial resources for transit development and operation
- PPPs cannot substitute for public policy, oversight and resources







Guiding Principals for PPPs: Transit Industry

- 1) PPPs are a tool in the transit toolbox, not an ultimate solution
- 2) PPPs must be structured to sustain the public interest
- 3) PPPs should achieve public goals and support regional planning
- 4) PPPs are possible only where long-range revenue streams exist through direct user fees and/or dedicated tax revenues







Guiding Principals (Cont'd)

- 5) PPPs should be based on appropriate and beneficial sharing of risk
- PPPs should be used to increase procurement flexibility and effectiveness of project delivery
- 7) PPPs focused on tolling and highway pricing should be structured to promote increased transit use
- 8) Funding and financing are not the same







APTA Task Force Recommendations

- Support federal tax incentives to enhance attractiveness of transit investment
- Increase effectiveness of methods for encouraging real estate investment (TOD, TIF, value capture mechanisms)
- Integrate transit into tolling projects ("high performance corridors")
- Seek a bold, new approach in reauthorizing surface transportation program: Without public resources, there is no opportunity for partnership







Federal Reauthorization Recommendations

- Provide incentives for using a variety of project delivery methods
 - Expedited review; "credit" for private sector involvement
- Clarify and expand *Penta-P* Program; create new programmatic options for partnerships
 - Expand options for innovative project and service delivery
- Improve project delivery procedures
 - Streamline project approval and delivery procedures
 - Streamline procurement and contracting guidelines
- Utilize a broader range of operations and maintenance service delivery models







Surface Transportation...

SUBTITLE B—INTERMODAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL INNOVATIONS

Sec. 1202. Office of Expedited Project Delivery

ESTABLISHMENT—The Secretary shall establish an Office of Expedited Project Delivery in the Federal Highway Administration to enhance the speed of project delivery for highway construction projects.

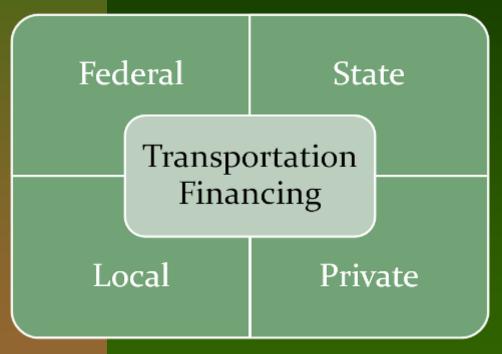
DUTIES OF DIRECTOR—The Director shall provide national leadership to enhance the speed of delivery of highway construction projects, with particular focus on significant highway construction projects and substantially delayed projects.







A Vision for New Financing



- Financing should be tied to long-term policy and performance outcomes
- All modes should be planned, managed and financed as interrelated elements of a system







A Comprehensive Approach

- Focus on road pricing / congestion pricing / tolls
- Use fuel taxes as a bridge to future vehicle miles traveled (VMT) fees
- Undertake annual indexing of the fuel tax
- Utilize future VMT fees as a multi-modal funding source
- Create federal and state infrastructure banks
- Mainstream tax-credit bonds
- Utilize revenues derived from future carbon taxes and / or cap & trade for transportation improvements
- Build and incorporate carbon offset markets
- Make private investment attractive; derive additional revenues from value capture and user benefits







Primary Reauthorization Recommendation

Public-private partnerships should supplement – *not replace* – funding and financing provided through transportation authorizing legislation

